



RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION ENLISTING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU'S PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONWIDE STEPPING UP INITIATIVE TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS FROM BEING INCARCERATED.

WHEREAS, approximately two million people with serious mental illnesses, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and major depression are admitted to jails across the nation each year, many of whom also have drug and alcohol use problems; and

WHEREAS, almost three-quarters of these adults also have co-occurring substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, jails spend two to three times more per person on people with mental illnesses than they do on other people; and

WHEREAS, adults with mental illnesses tend to stay in jail longer and, upon release, are at a higher risk of returning to incarceration than those without mental illnesses; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Health provides services to improve the mental health of Hawaii people by reducing the prevalence of emotional disorders and mental illnesses with services that include mental health education, treatment, and rehabilitation through community-based mental health centers; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Public Safety ("PSD") operates jails in each of the four counties and three prisons on Oahu; and

WHEREAS, the Oahu Community Correctional Center ("OCCC") is a jail used to incarcerate pre-trial and very short-term sentence misdemeanor inmates and in PSD's Annual Report to the 2015 Legislature it reported that OCCC is working to bring itself up to national standards for correctional mental health care; and

WHEREAS, without the appropriate treatment and services, those with mental illnesses will continue to cycle through the criminal justice system, often resulting in tragic outcomes for these individuals and their families; and

WHEREAS, the continuous cycling of people with mental illnesses between jail and the community places an additional strain on county resources for law enforcement, first responders, and social services; and



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WHEREAS, although many counties have made tremendous efforts to address this problem, they are often thwarted by significant obstacles, including operating with minimal resources and needing better coordination among criminal justice, mental health, substance use treatment, and other agencies; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties ("NACo"), the Council of State Governments ("CSG") Justice Center, and the American Psychiatric Foundation ("APF") have launched *Stepping Up: A National Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails* ("Stepping up Initiative"), an unprecedented national collaboration designed to generate action in communities across the country; and

WHEREAS, NACo, CSG, and APF are encouraging public, private, and nonprofit partners to participate in the National Stepping Up Initiative; and

WHEREAS, those participating in the initiative will receive notification about learning opportunities, peer-to-peer exchanges, expert guidance, a toolkit of resources, and other assistance to facilitate planning and implementation; and

WHEREAS, the Stepping Up Initiative is also urging county leaders to convene teams of agency decision makers and diverse stakeholders to develop a six-step action plan to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails; and

WHEREAS, in November 2015, the County of Hawaii became the first county in the State of Hawaii to become a part of the Stepping Up Initiative by adopting Resolution 268-15 (Draft 3); and

WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu may become a part of the Stepping Up Initiative by adopting a resolution in support of the Call to Action, a six-point commitment that focuses on developing a plan that can be implemented in the City and County of Honolulu and in counties across the nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the Council hereby expresses its support for the Stepping Up Initiative's Call to Action and its efforts to reduce recidivism of incarcerated persons with mental illnesses who are charged with nonviolent offenses in Oahu Community Correctional Center, and urges the Directors of the State Departments of Public Safety and Health ("Directors") to do the same; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Directors are urged to use the comprehensive resources available through the Stepping Up Initiative and the information available on the website www.stepuptogether.org:

1. Convene or draw on a diverse team of leaders and decision makers from multiple public safety and mental health agencies and organizations committed to safely reducing the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.
2. Collect and review prevalence numbers and assess individuals' needs as to better identify adults entering jails with mental illnesses and their recidivism risk, and use that baseline information to guide decision making at the system, program, and case levels.
3. Examine treatment and service capacity to determine which programs and services are available in the county for people with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders, and identify state and local policy and funding barriers to minimizing these people's contact with the justice system and providing treatment and support in the community.
4. Develop a plan with measurable outcomes that draws on the jail assessment and prevalence data and the examination of available treatment and service capacity, while considering identified barriers.
5. Implement research-based approaches that advance the plan.
6. Create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on successes and failures.

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Directors are urged to commit to sharing lessons learned with other states and with counties across the country to support a national initiative and encourage others to participate in the Stepping Up Initiative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of the State Attorney General, the Honolulu Police Department, the Honolulu Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, the Hawaii State Judiciary, and the Office of the Public Defender are urged to work with the Directors, in consultation with mental health agencies, organizations and providers to reduce the number of persons in jail with mental illnesses and support the Stepping Up Initiative; and



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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Hawaii State Senate, Speaker of the Hawaii State House of Representatives, Hawaii State Attorney General Douglas Chin, State Department of Public Safety Director Nolan Espinda, State Department of Health Director Dr. Virginia Pressler, Honolulu Police Department's Chief of Police Louis M. Kealoha, Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney Keith M. Kaneshiro, the State Public Defender John M. Tonaki, Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald, and Mental Health Administrator for the Department of Public Safety Mark Mitchell.

INTRODUCED BY:

Ernest Martin

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

January 6, 2016
Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII
C E R T I F I C A T E

RESOLUTION 16-10, CD1

Introduced: 01/06/16

By: ERNEST MARTIN

Committee: PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY
AND WELFARE

Title: RESOLUTION ENLISTING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU'S PARTICIPATION IN THE
NATIONWIDE STEPPING UP INITIATIVE TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH MENTAL
ILLNESS FROM BEING INCARCERATED.

Voting Legend: * = Aye w/Reservations

01/12/16	PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE	CR-5 – RESOLUTION ADDED TO THE AGENDA AND REPORTED OUT OF COMMITTEE FOR ADOPTION AS AMENDED IN CD1 FORM.
01/27/16	COUNCIL	CR-5 AND RESOLUTION 16-10, CD1 WERE ADOPTED. 9 AYES: ANDERSON, ELEFANTE, FUKUNAGA, KOBAYASHI, MANAHAN, MARTIN, MENOR, OZAWA, PINE.

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this RESOLUTION.



GLEN I. TAKAHASHI, CITY CLERK



ERNEST Y. MARTIN, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER